

Amendments to the Abstract:

In reading this, text added by the amendment is underlined, and cancelled text appears in strikethrough.

Page 54, lines 2-13, please replace with the following:

A² A flash memory system segregates overhead data from user data so that overhead data may be addressed, programmed and erased independently from user data. The non-volatile memory medium of a flash memory system is mapped into a plurality of ~~separate~~ and separately addressable memory blocks that are independently programmable and independently erasable, including a plurality of Dedicated Overhead Blocks and Dedicated Data Blocks. The Dedicated Overhead Blocks are mapped according to a plurality of distinguishably addressable segments, and include a first Dedicated Overhead Block and a second Dedicated Overhead Block. User Data defined by a VLBA is stored in a Dedicated Data Block within the flash memory. Successively generated sets of Overhead Data, such as ~~a cross reference to the physical address of the user data, flags, and Error Correction Data generated in conjunction with incoming User Data,~~ are stored in respective segments in the Dedicated Overhead Blocks. ~~When a Dedicated Overhead Block is designated for erasure, any current overhead segments are consolidated and moved to a new Dedicated Overhead Block., and the full or obsolete block is erased.~~

Amendments to drawing figures:

Please replace the immediate prior version of Figures 1, 3, and 5-6 with the attached replacement Figures 1, 3, and 5-6. Please see the remarks section for an explanation of the changes made to Figures 1, 3, and 5-6.